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DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL

REPORT

for the year 1952

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. REYNOLDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department, Nether Hall, Doncaster



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DONCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department.
Nether Hall,
Doncaster.
August, 1953.

**To the Chairman and Members,
Public Health Committee,
Doncaster Rural District Council.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present the Annual Report on the state of health in the District during 1952 in accordance with my statutory duty. The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. Reynolds, has contributed the sections relating to Sanitary Circumstances, Housing, Food and Public Cleansing, while I have confined myself to Vital Statistics, Services Rendered by the County Council, and Infectious Diseases.

Again I have to report that there was no case of diphtheria and no death from maternal causes during the year. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was the lowest ever recorded and was lower than that for England and Wales. The infant mortality fell to a level never attained before in this District and for the first time for several years can be described as bearing comparison with the national figure.

The birth rate continued its gradual decline following the post-war "bulge", while the death rate from all causes remained at the same favourable position.

The housing programme gained considerable momentum in the provision of new houses, while the accumulation of arrears of maintenance continued in too many pre-war dwellings.

Hope for the gradual clean up of the atmosphere was increased by the greater awareness of the public generally of the evils of pollution.

I have to thank Mr. Reynolds and the staff of the Department for their help in the preparation of this report and for their loyal support during the year. I have also to thank the Committee for their encouragement and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. PENMAN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	75,156
Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year home population	...	...	...	...	...	53,650
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	14,681
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£270,638
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,045 2s. 6d.

Live Births:

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	473	437	910	Doncaster R.D. Live Birth
Illegitimate	24	20	44	Rate
	—	—	—	Adjusted
Total ...	497	457	954	England and Wales

Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	14	5	19	Doncaster R.D. Still Birth
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Rate
	—	—	—	England and Wales
Total ...	14	5	19	

Infant Deaths: Under 1 year
(in brackets, under 4 weeks)

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	17(13)	10(5)	27(18)	Doncaster R.D. Infant
Illegitimate	2(—)	1(--)	3(—)	Mortality Rate ...
	—	—	—	England and Wales
Total ...	19(13)	11(5)	30(18)	

Deaths—All Causes:

Male	Female	Total	
287	187	474	Doncaster R.D. Crude
			Death Rate
			Adjusted
			England and Wales

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

	Male	Female	Total	
(a) Respiratory	5	0	5	Doncaster R.D. Death Rate
(b) Non-respiratory	1	0	1	from Tuberculosis
	—	—	—	England and Wales
Total ...	6	0	6	

Population:

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year home population was 53,650, an increase of 400 over the previous year. The population's natural increase was 480. In this district the natural increase has always been partially offset by the excess of emigration over immigration.

Births:

Live births were down by 8 causing a fall in the rate to 17.00. The national birth rate fell from 15.5 to 15.3.

Still births at 19 were 12 below the figure for 1951 and gave a still birth rate per 1,000 of 0.37 which was very nearly the same as that for England and Wales (0.35).

The adjusted live birth rate modified by a factor supplied by the Registrar General was 16.6. This makes the rate more comparable with that of England and Wales by correcting the local advantage in age and sex distribution.

Deaths:

There were 474 deaths in the home population from all causes (male 287; females 187), 58 less than in 1951, giving a crude death rate of 8.84 and an adjusted death rate of 11.49 compared with a corresponding rate of 11.3 for England and Wales. The male deaths were in proportion to the female deaths as 3 to 2, which was about the usual.

The principal causes of death were:

	Compare with		
	1952	1951	1950
Diseases of the heart and circulation, including vascular lesions of the nervous system	207	228	200
Cancer (including leukæmia)	93	69	74
Pneumonia, bronchitis, influenza ...	51	77	66
Accidents and violence (motor accidents 8, other accidents 12, suicide 5)	25	26	24
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6	24	17

Deaths from these causes constituted 81 per cent. of the total.

The most notable features are the continued high level of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation, the decline in deaths from tuberculosis, and the rise in the deaths from malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchi (no fewer than 18 of the 93 cancer cases).

The 'cardiac' deaths included 45 from coronary thrombosis, a disease which increasingly afflicts the middle-aged. The causes of this are by no means certain. It is tempting to attribute it to the increased tempo of modern life and the increased wear and tear among persons willing to accept responsibility.

The local decline in the deaths from tuberculosis corresponds with the national decline which has been noted for some years. It coincides with increased numbers of cases discovered at an earlier stage, and with modern treatment.

Malignant neoplasm of the lung and bronchi now greatly exceeds tuberculosis as a notable cause of death. There is much speculation about the reason. Excessive smoking and atmospheric pollution have been suspected.

Maternal Mortality:

For the second year in succession, I have been able to report no maternal deaths. The national maternal mortality was 0.72 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

This favourable state of affairs is due to the ante-natal care given by consultant and ordinary ante-natal clinics, by general practitioners and midwives, by judicious hospitalisation and modern treatment and aided by some luck. It is not possible as yet to prevent all deaths from maternal causes (e.g. pulmonary embolism), but the hazards have been reduced to a minimum.

Infant Mortality:

30 infants (19 male; 11 female) died before reaching the age of 1 year. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was thus 32.9, the lowest ever recorded in the Doncaster Rural District. The National

figure has been falling rapidly during the past few years and reached 27·6 in 1952. In this northern industrial area it will not be easy to equal the national rate because of the effects of cold temperatures and the smoke-laden atmosphere, but the efforts of 1952 show what can be done.

One swallow, of course, does not make a summer; this favourable position will have to be repeated twice again in succession to eliminate the possibility of mere chance.

I have every hope that it will be. Even if there is some wavering, the trend will be downwards.

Notable causes of death were bronchitis and pneumonia 6, immaturity (as the principal and associated cause) 11, asphyxia and atelectasis (collapse of the lung) 5.

Of all the indices of health in the community the local infant mortality rate in the past 10 years has been the most resistant of betterment.

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS—1952

Cause of Death	All Infants		Under 4 wks.		4 wks. to 3 mths.		3 to 6 months		6 to 9 months		9 to 12 months	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	4	2	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	—
Gastro-Enteritis ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Immaturity ...	3	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assoc. Immaturity ...	4	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post-natal Asphyxia and Atelectasis	3	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haemolytic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accidental Suffocation	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES ...	19	11	11	8	4	1	3	1	—	1	1	—

While general social and economic factors can claim a share in this betterment, the work of the health visitors in the homes and the educative functions of the infant welfare clinics have been mainly responsible. Considering the difficulties of training and keeping Health Visitors in these industrial areas, the continuing inadequacy of qualified health visiting staff and the few recruits, the achievement is all the more noteworthy.

Pædiatric advice from the County Council's and Regional Hospital Board's Specialists has been increasingly available to general medical practitioners, and the latter have increased in numbers locally since the National Health Service Act came into being. In other words, the district, which was once labelled "under-doctored", was much improved in this respect during 1952. In apportioning credit for the fall in infant deaths due weight should be given this factor.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1952

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
	ALL CAUSES:	287	187
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	—
2	Tuberculosis, Other	1	—
3	Syphilitic Disease	2	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8	Measles	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm: stomach	15	6
11	do lung, bronchus	15	3
12	do breast	—	12
13	do uterus	—	3
14	do lymphatic and other	20	17
15	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	1	1
16	Diabetes	1	4
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	28	21
18	Coronary disease: angina	27	18
19	Hypertension with heart disease	9	4
20	Other heart disease	39	41
21	Other circulatory disease	13	7
22	Influenza	4	1
23	Pneumonia	9	8
24	Bronchitis	25	4
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	6	1
26	Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum ...	5	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	1	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	26	25
33	Motor vehicle accidents	8	—
34	All other accidents	10	2
35	Suicide	3	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—

SECTION B

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL

This brief summary is not meant to replace the report of the County Medical Officer and Chief School Medical Officer.

Births:

979 live and still births occurred among mothers resident in this Divisional Area. 386 of them took place in maternity hospitals or homes and 591 were domiciliary. This means that 39 per cent. of the births took place in Institutions. Only one-third of these institutional births took place there because of the unsuitability of home conditions. The remainder were caused by abnormalities of pregnancy. In other words, the number of maternity beds available to meet other than first priorities is small, but a greater number than usual of second priorities were admitted in 1952.

Ante-Natal Clinics:

About 65 per cent. of the total expectant mothers attended the County Council's Ante-Natal Clinics during the year. This average was substantially exceeded in the colliery villages. The Hospital Board have Ante-Natal Clinics in being and medical practitioners supervised many of their own patients ante-natally. Few expectant mothers had no supervision of some variety, while all had the opportunity to avail themselves of the service.

The average number of attendances per mother was five and total attendances were 3,992; 396 half-day sessions were held at Armthorpe, Askern, Edlington, Kirk Sandall, Rossington, Sprotborough and Bawtry.

Over 300 mothers with abnormalities of pregnancy were referred to the Consultant Obstetricians during the year and the majority of them came via the local ante-natal clinics. 254 of these were delivered in hospital.

Post-Natal Clinics:

Post-natal examinations are made at ante-natal clinics in this Division. 119 mothers made 121 attendances. This is an advance on the previous year but much remains to be done by way of educating mothers to take advantage of this service. Most of those attending were mothers confined at home. Some of the others confined at home no doubt had similar service from their own doctors, while those delivered in hospital were offered post-natal examination at the maternity hospital out-patient clinics.

Help in the Home:

The County Council have recently increased the establishment of whole-time home helps to 600 for the County. This service has been slow in development in this Division because of distance to be travelled and during 1952 the number of hours of help given was the equivalent of 12.45 whole-time helps as against 16 whole-time helps allocated to the Division.

At the time of writing in mid-year 1953 the service has expanded quickly. Recent weekly averages are running at the level of 20.5 whole-time helps and the basic allocation has been increased to 19. This is due to the greater number of elderly persons being helped in their homes for long periods.

Cases provided with Home Help during the year ended 31st December, 1952:

	No. of Cases	Hours Employed
(1) Illness (excluding aged)		
(a) Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil
(b) Other	21	4,541
(2) Lying in	32	2,318
(3) Expectant Mothers	2	320
(4) Mental Defective	Nil	Nil
(5) Aged—(a) Illness	23	5,496
(b) Infirmary	63	14,882
(6) Children of School Age	5	1,025
Total ...	146	28,582

The percentage of time spent on the aged has increased from 64 to 71 of the total.

Child Welfare Centres:

The seven centres at Armthorpe, Askern, Bawtry, Edlington, Kirk Sandall, Rossington and Sprotborough continued their good work. 65 per cent. of the infants born alive in the related period attended for the first time at these clinics. There are clinics outside the area at which some mothers from the Rural District more conveniently attend such as Goldthorpe, Woodlands, Maltby, Conisbrough and Doncaster. With the exception of the last-named all the clinics are run by the West Riding County Council. No figures are available for the percentage attending there.

Within the next few years it is hoped that the small outlying places will be serviced by a mobile Infant Welfare Unit. Education in the methods of infant feeding, clothing and management were the principal functions of these centres, while medical advice was available at an early stage for children apparently not responding.

Dried Milks, cereals and vitamin supplements were on sale to attenders. Suitable arrangements were in being for the Ministry of Food to distribute dried milk and vitamins on the same or adjoining premises.

Number of children aged 0—5 years attending during the year	1,677
Number of attendances of children aged 0—5 during the year:	
(a) under 1 year	11,859
(b) over 1 year	6,647
Number of children attending for the first time:	
(a) under 1 year	626
(b) over 1 year	38

Health Visiting:

For the whole year there was a deficiency of two qualified Health Visitors out of a staff of 13.

Although this was made up by full-time and part-time assistant Health Visitors, visiting in the home had to be sacrificed in some areas to maintain our commitments in existing fixed clinics. Two nurses are being trained under the West Riding County Council's scheme for training Health Visitors to fill the gaps.

To the child welfare work of this staff is due in no small measure the fall of the infant mortality rate in the district. This has been the most intractable of all the local health indices to improve. The mortality has not been uniform throughout the district. Generally speaking the purely agricultural parishes have had a low infant mortality for some years. The mining villages of Askern and Edlington have had heavy mortality; Armthorpe moderately heavy; Rossington and Sprotborough have been favourable, and Kirk Sandall moderately favourable. With such a patchy distribution it seemed the proper policy to concentrate staff in numbers and quality as far as possible on the difficult areas. This has been in being for two years and a resulting fall in the district rate has coincided with the re-distribution.

The Senior Health Visitor has given special attention to the unmarried mother and her child and to problem families. The extra help given at critical times has often promoted a favourable outcome. In this work there has been close co-operation with the Diocesan Welfare Societies and the Adoption Society and the County Council have been generous over the payment of institutional expenses.

The Tuberculosis Visitor continued her work of visiting cases in the home and to furnish reports on case contacts and housing conditions to me and to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer.

The time devoted by Health Visitors to Health Visiting (all classes including attendance at Infant Welfare Centres but excluding school nursing and school clinics) equalled the whole time services of nine officers.

Health Visitors paid the following numbers of visits during the year:

				First visit	Total visits
(1)	Expectant Mothers	...	...	355	654
(2)	Children under 1 year	...	...	935	8318
(3)	Children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	9	12900
(4)	Other cases	...	...	489	3602
				<hr/> 1788	<hr/> 25474

Midwifery:

(a) Domiciliary.

The staff consisted of 11 whole-time, 2 part-time and 2 senior relief midwives. During the year 658 expectant mothers booked midwives for confinement at home in the divisional area. Actually 600 were delivered at home and 34 cases were discharged from hospitals and maternity homes to the care of the midwives before the 14th day.

8 notifications of contact with infection were received: puerperal pyrexia 5; ophthalmia neonatorum 2; septic abortion 1.

250 aid notices were issued by midwives for medical help in connection with these confinements, 39 being to the child and 211 to the mother in pregnancy, labour and lying-in period. These included many potentially serious conditions, several severe and numerous ordinary accompaniments of child bearing and the neo-natal period. The general position indicated that mother and child received adequate attention.

All the midwives in the divisional area were qualified to give gas and air analgesia and possessed the necessary machines for so doing. 305 mothers received this form of analgesia during the year. In addition analgesic medication was administered in the form of pethidine to 95 mothers in labour, by hypodermic injection. Divisionalisation of health administration has made it possible to maintain the machines and regulate

the issue of the dangerous drugs necessary for these procedures. That two-thirds of the mothers in labour at home received some form of analgesia indicates increasing awareness of modern aids, and a willingness on the part of the midwives to give service.

(b) Institutional.

386 mothers were delivered in maternity hospitals or homes. 254 were confined there of necessity because of abnormalities discovered in pregnancy or in emergency. The remainder, amounting to about one-third of the total, were confined in hospital or maternity home because of unsuitability of housing conditions. Institutional confinements amounted to nearly 40 per cent. of the total, which is a high proportion for this district, but low when compared with the country generally.

Home Nursing:

The home nursing staff was further reduced to seven whole-time nurses and two Nurse/Midwives, supported by temporary part-time nurses for short periods. A Relief Nurse will shortly be available to supplement the existing staff and a new candidate is undergoing post-certificate home nursing training under the Queen's Institute.

Nevertheless, a heavy volume of work was carried out. 1,466 cases were cared for involving 26,542 visits. No fewer than 8,572 of these visits were paid for the purpose of giving hypodermic administration of antibiotics, insulin or mercurial diuretics. This added burden incidental to modern methods of treatment further accentuated the inadequacy of the staff.

The number of home nurses allocated to this Public Health Division has been increased to ten. This quota will be filled as and when suitable candidates can be obtained and housed near the areas of greatest need.

Ultra Violet Ray Clinic:

This clinic was held twice weekly at the Sprotborough Child Welfare Centre during the months of January to May and October to December.

During the period under review 33 children made 296 attendances.

The lamp was in use a total of 129 hours 40 minutes. The children attending suffered from debility or pre-rachitic or pre-tuberculous conditions and were referred by the school medical service, the Chest Clinic, or general practitioners. The cases were mainly selected and the results good generally. Cases not likely to respond to this treatment are not encouraged because of the distance to be travelled by the patient and parent.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-38:

10 new cases were ascertained during the year, in connection with whom the procedure for reporting to the Local Authority had been completed in seven. All seven were placed under statutory supervision and were under the age of 16 years. This results in the total of known defectives and their manner of disposal being as follows:

		Under 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
Under Statutory Supervision	...	19	10	37	37
Under Guardianship	... ..	—	—	1	5
In places of Safety	... ..	—	—	—	—
Under voluntary supervision	...	—	—	5	1
		19	10	43	43
		Total: 115			

The County Medical Officer was informed that 17 of these under 16 and 8 over 16 years were suitable for some form of Occupation Centre. Because of the restricted number of places available and the difficulties of transport in certain cases, it was possible to find such accommodation for only 9 under 16 years and 2 over 16 years. Home tuition in handicraft or social deportment was given to 17 other defectives over the whole period.

A special bus service from Askern via Bentley to the Doncaster Borough Occupation Centre was arranged and this functioned very well. This now amplifies an existing special bus service from Conisbrough via Warmsworth. The good work done at this Borough Occupation Centre has only to be seen to be appreciated and the gratitude of the parents and relatives is overwhelming.

Three defectives ceased to be under the care of the Local Authority either by death or removal from the area.

School Medical Inspection (Brief Summary):

2,122 children were examined at periodic medical inspections including 629 entrants, 797 intermediates and 696 at the leaving age. 136 examinations or re-examinations were made of children with special defects. This volume of work, while it is better than that of the previous year, was not quite adequate to fulfil the objects of the school health service. It was made possible by the part-time assistance of a general practitioner with a liking for this type of work. A second Assistant County Medical Officer has now been seconded to the Division and it is thus anticipated that a comprehensive programme will be possible in 1953 for the first time since 1949.

37 per cent. of all the children examined were above average in nutrition, 62 per cent. of average range, and only 1 per cent. below average or poor nutrition. The corresponding percentages were: (a) for entrants—51, 48.25, 0.75; (b) for intermediates—35.5, 63, 1.5; (c) for leavers—26.5, 72.5, 1.

Of the 2,122 children examined at routine inspections the following defects were found requiring treatment:

Eyes: (a) Vision	...	...	...	77	Orthopædic: (a) Posture	...	7
(b) Squint	...	...	..	7	(b) Flat Foot	..	9
(c) Other	...	...	...	4	(c) Other	...	16
Ears: (a) Hearing	...	...	...	2	Nervous System: (a) Epilepsy		2
Nose and Throat	...	...	...	133	(b) Other	...	4
Speech Defects	...	...	...	6	Psychological:		
Heart and Circulation	...	..		4	(a) Developmental	...	1
Lungs	...	...	...	3	(b) Stability	...	1
Developmental: (a) Hernia	...	0			Other	...	11
(b) Other	...			1			

Under the same classification a larger number of minor conditions were found not requiring treatment but observation. Defects treated during the year were as follows:

					No. of cases treated:	
					By the Authority	Elsewhere or otherwise
Skin Diseases:						
Ringworm (1) Scalp	...	...	...	—	—
(2) Body	...	...	...	—	—
Scabies	}	Minor Ailments Clinic	{	...	—	
Impetigo				...	143	—
Other skin diseases				...	53	—
				196		
Eye disease, Defective Vision, Squint:						
External conditions	...	...	...	—	6
Refraction and squint	...	...	...	260	—
(at Special Ophthalmic Clinic)				260	6	
No. of pupils for whom spectacles were:						
(a) prescribed	...	...	...	257	—
(b) obtained	...	...	...	252	—
Ear, Nose and Throat Defects:						
Operative treatment for—						
(a) Diseases of the ear	—	5	} Doncaster Royal Infirmary
(b) Adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	...	...	...	—	132
(c) For other conditions of nose and throat	...	...	...	—	16
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	...	510	38
At school Clinics				510	191	
Orthopædic and Postural Defects:						
(a) Number treated in hospital	...	...	...	—	3
(b) Number treated otherwise,						
e.g. in clinics	...	...	...	22	—
Child Guidance Treatment:						
Number of pupils treated	...	...	...	6	—
Speech Therapy:						
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	...	...	...	48	1
Other Treatment Given:						
(a) Minor ailments	...	...	...	4884	—
(b) U.V. Ray Clinic	...	...	...	33	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1952
(Other than Tuberculosis).

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

Arranged in the manner prescribed by the Registrar General.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic					
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	8	5	—	—
1 to 2 ...	1	4	11	17	—	—	—	—	34	37	—	—
3 to 4 ...	6	8	19	33	—	—	—	—	54	54	—	—
5 to 9 ...	10	11	18	25	1	—	—	—	85	68	—	—
10 to 14	4	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	4	5	—	—
15 to 24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	22	27	53	79	1	1	—	—	185	171	—	—

Age Group	Acute Pneumonia		Bacillary Dysentery		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	1	3	1	—	—	—	1	—
5 to 14...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 to 44	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
45 to 64	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
65 & over	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age unknown	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	11	8	1	—	1	3	2	1

				M.	F.
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	3

573 cases of notifiable infections (other than tuberculosis) among the civil population came to the knowledge of this department during the year. The fourth quarter included the beginning of an epidemic of whooping cough which extended into the following year and included 132 cases. 356 cases of measles represented a non-epidemic year for that disease, the majority occurring in the second quarter.

A creditable start was made on immunisation against whooping cough through the infant welfare centres with the limited full-time medical staff available. 132 children under 4 years were immunised including 53 under 1 year. These children are being observed to ascertain the efficacy of the vaccine. It is hoped to extend these facilities in 1953. Family doctors also immunised an unknown number of children against whooping cough and can give the inoculations if requested. Since the greatest danger to life from whooping cough is under 1 year, and in particular in the first six months of life, the inoculations do the maximum good if given some time before the anti-diphtheria injections are due, say at 4 to 5 months. At 4 years of age and over, whooping cough tends to be a mild disease and until the youngest age groups are immunised children of these ages should wait.

For the second year in succession there was no confirmed case of diphtheria in the district. To keep in subjection a powerful and insidious enemy such as diphtheria has proved to be, is no light achievement in an area that has suffered much from its ravages in the past, whether measured in terms of life, health or treasure. To maintain our good fortune we have to see that our children are immunised against the disease. Only 48 per cent. of the children under 5 years had been immunised by the end of 1952. For perfect safety this requires to be raised to 70 per cent. With a little more effort this could be done. Even if all the parents who signed forms turned up at the clinics with their children when appointments are arranged a great improvement would be recorded.

Would new mothers note that if the health visitor does not offer to arrange the service for you (which would be strange), it can be obtained by contacting your nearest Child Welfare Centre, your own doctor or by writing to me.

ANTI-DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1952

Age	0-4	5-14	Total
Primary	554	37	591
Reinforcement doses	2	285	287

State of Anti-Diphtheria Immunisation at the end of 1952:

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
	31	376	530	643	783	3938	3668	
TOTAL ...						2363	7606	9969
Estimated mid-year population						4899	9577	14476
Percentage Immunised						48.23	79.42	68.86

Smallpox—Vaccination:

In 1952, when there were 954 live births, the following was the result of a campaign modelled upon that used against diphtheria:

	Under 1 year	1 year	2—4 years	5—14 years	15 and over	Total
Primary Vaccination	159	4	7	18	47	235
Re-vaccination ...	18	—	1	—	1	20

This result is even worse than the disappointing figures quoted over the past few years. In the North of England there have been two outbreaks of smallpox in two years, which have required strenuous efforts at mass vaccination of a very willing public. The medical staff at one town had to work 12-hour shifts to cope with the situation. Again may I ask—why wait till the enemy is on the doorstep?

Other Infectious Diseases:

Only two cases of poliomyelitis were notified compared with 4 in the previous year. Both had some degree of paralysis when notified.

Three cases of meningococcal infection were notified compared with 2 in the previous year, and 1 case of bacillary dysentery compared with 17.

About March a curious outbreak occurred at a council school for senior girls. In a few days or a week at most, some hundreds of them were affected with a minor illness which has since been given the name of “epidemic nausea”. The symptoms were nausea, gastric and abdominal discomfort, and dizziness. Only a few more marked cases had actual vomiting and diarrhoea. The outbreak lasted only two or three weeks. It was not connected with communal feeding nor with school milk and seemed to spread with contact. In the following year a small group of cases occurred in the junior girls’ school adjoining the senior girls’ school mentioned. This time the cases were excluded from school at an early stage, and parents asked to co-operate in exclusion of fresh cases. These measures may have been the cause of the second outbreak being of small proportions.

Tuberculosis:

New Cases and Mortality during 1952:

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15	5	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
15 to 25	9	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 35	5	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	2	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 55	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 to 65	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All ages	25	26	1	1	5	—	1	—

During the year there were notified 53 new cases of tuberculosis, 51 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory, 26 male and 27 female patients. This compares with 60 in 1949, 57 in 1950 and 61 in 1951. All forms of tuberculosis accounted for only 6 deaths, which is a new low record for the District. The general trend seems to be a higher level of notification of new cases and a fall in the number of deaths indicating a more comprehensive ascertainment of cases at an earlier stage, coupled with an improvement in the results of treatment. The death rate per 1,000 fell in England and Wales in 1952 to 0.24 from 0.31 in 1951; the corresponding decline in Doncaster Rural District was to 0.11 from 0.43 per 1,000. This larger local decline may prove not to be fully representative because of the greater influence of chance factors upon the rate among smaller populations, but large declines of this nature generally indicate a distinct direction of trend.

The increase in ascertainment is certainly due to the greater facilities for diagnosis and medical care placed at the disposal of the public by the operation of the National Health Services Act, in particular the increase of the number of general practitioners, the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, and the greater use of the consultation facilities at the Chest Clinic, coupled with a more enlightened attitude on the part of the public in the matter of the examination of contacts, etc.

The decrease in the death rate has also been helped by the use of antibiotics and other forms of therapy, grafted upon the longer established methods of treatment. The survival of cases of acute forms of tuberculosis, e.g. meningitis, has been spectacular, indicating the possession of weapons capable of subduing the ravages of a germ which has resisted similar efforts through the past 70 years.

A survey was made by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit at Rossington where 1,265 persons volunteered for examination. It is gratifying to note that out of this number only one case of active tuberculosis was discovered and 7 cases with inactive tuberculous lesions (already self-cured or on the way to cure). 32 with abnormalities other than tuberculosis were revealed, including 15 cases with some degree of pneumoconiosis.

Sanatorium and Hospital Treatment, including Rehabilitation Centres:

The following number of cases were admitted or discharged from Institutions during the year:

	Admitted			Discharged or Died		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory:						
Adults	23	22	45	12	17	29
Children	4	1	5	4	1	5
Non-respiratory:						
Adults	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children	1	—	1	1	—	1
	28	23	51	17	18	35

17 hospitals, sanatoria and other institutions were involved, principally in the Leeds and Sheffield hospital regions but some as far away as Oswestry and Papworth.

One Health Visitor specialises in visiting the homes of cases and attending the Chest Clinic, thus maintaining liaison between the patient and the treatment centre (now in the control of the Hospital Board). Her visits are included in the table shown in Section 'B' of this report relating to Health Visiting (other cases).

Extra Nourishment:

No. of patients receiving extra nourishment:

(a) at the beginning of the year	35
(b) granted extra nourishment during the year	34
(c) No. of grants discontinued	28
(d) No. of patients receiving extra nourishment at the end of the year	41
(e) Total No. of orders issued during the year	327

Outdoor Shelters: Supplied and Maintained 5

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Although the Chief Sanitary Inspector has supplied the details of water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal, and atmospheric pollution in his report, I should like to add a few comments.

The provision of piped water supplies to every house in the Rural District is closer to reality here than in any rural district of similar area and population. Public mains are in every one of its thirty-five parishes and the few houses and farms not connected to them are chiefly in very isolated places. The new housing estates are causing problems of adequacy to the various water authorities creating the need for additional boreholes and the duplication of pumping and supply mains. There was no serious shortage of water although in the "dry" season night and day pumping on all boreholes had to be maintained by at least one of the principal authorities.

New housing needs have added to the problem of sewage disposal when coupled with the financial and labour policy of restricting the initiation of new schemes. Water supply being unrestricted in this rural area, cesspool emptying has become quite a problem in these circumstances. The Norton scheme at last looks like proceeding, while Barnburgh, Old Sprotborough and Wadworth await fundamental attention. Askern has waited for improvement for many years pending complete subsidence from colliery workings.

The establishment of instruments to measure impurities in the atmosphere is a valuable step forward to inform the general public on these matters. The evils of this form of pollution have been known for many years but public apathy on the matter has been the chief bar to progress. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health said in a recent Annual Report that we were leaving the era of sanitary engineering and passing on to that of personal hygiene. Sanitary engineering is the handmaid of environmental hygiene and has helped to clean up our surroundings. It has shown the various ways to clean the atmosphere and some of these ways have been hard to adopt. There are signs of increased public consciousness in the more knowledgeable

ways of fuel combustion, the use of smokeless fuels and the establishment of smokeless zones in some large cities. We still tolerate diesel smoke from inefficient internal combustion engines in our busy highways and certain industries are exempted from the application of the smoke abatement regulations.

Housing:

Good progress was made in the provision of new houses and in the overtaking of arrears due to the war-time gap in building. Sufficient organisation and impetus seems now to exist to enable new housing needs to be met in foreseeable time.

The deterioration of old houses is a feature of the housing situation steadily becoming more threatening, owing to uneconomical rents and the high cost of building repairs.

Food:

Under Sections 18 to 20 of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949 (Food and Drugs Act, 1938), five orders were issued to cause raw milk to be pasteurised for various periods owing to the discovery of bovine tuberculosis in the supplies by the public health staff of the Borough of Doncaster.

Two persons engaged in the handling of food and in contact with infectious disease at home voluntarily agreed to remain off work for specified periods. Their employers readily co-operated.

National Assistance Acts, 1947 and 1951. Section 47:

It was not necessary to use this power during the year in the removal of elderly or infirm persons not receiving adequate attention in their homes.

Many elderly persons were assisted to remain at home by the home help scheme and visits of the home nurse. The admission of the aged sick to the hospital sick wards continued to be a matter of some difficulty because of the waiting lists.

A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1952 for the Rural District of Doncaster in the County of Yorkshire (W.R.)

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosec't'd
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	91	123	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	91	123	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosec't'ns were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6).	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. A. PENMAN, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Divisional Medical Officer, West Riding County Council).

Assistant County Medical Officer:

Dr. C. M. DORNAN, M.B., B.Ch.

Specialists and Consultants:

Child Health:

Dr. C. C. HARVEY, M.D., M.R.C.P. * ‡

Chest Diseases:

Dr. F. C. N. HOLDEN, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. * †

Obstetrics and Gynæcology:

Mr. D. R. L. STEVENSON, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. * †

Miss C. E. PEAKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.O.G. * †

Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases:

Mr. H. M. PETTY, M.B., Ch.B., D.L.O., R.C.P.S. * †

Eye Diseases:

Dr. K. H. MEHTA, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O. * †

Orthopædic:

Mr. W. H. M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. * †

Nursing Staff:

A. Health Visitors:

Senior Health Visitor: Miss E. HUMPHRIES and 11 Qualified Health Visitors, 1 Assistant Health Visitor.

B. Home Nurses:

7 Home Nurses and 2 Home Nurse/Midwives.

C. Midwives:

2 Senior Relief Midwives, 11 Midwives.

D. Orthopædic Nurse:

Nurse A. SIDDLE *

Social Workers:

Mental Deficiency:

Miss P. M. CONWAY *

Special Diseases:

Miss V. DUNFORD *

Home Teacher—Mental Defectives:

Miss M. LAUGHTON *

Speech Therapist:

Miss K. TYAS *

Clerical Staff—Divisional Health Office:

Chief Clerk:

Mr. W. S. KNIVETT; also Mr. A. G. Hickling, Mr. M. L. Austin, Mr. R. Bowling, Miss E. Hewerdine, Miss J. Moore, Miss K. Holmes, Mrs. J. F. Kay.

* Shared by other Health Divisions.

† Regional Hospital Board's Consultant.

‡ Also on Teaching Staff, University of Sheffield.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Statement made to the Medical Officer of Health in pursuance of Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, in relation to inspections, notices, etc:

Total number of Inspections during 1952	...	...	11427
Nuisances reported during 1952	...	...	304
Nuisances in hand 1951	...	...	44
Abated during 1952	...	...	243
Outstanding at end of 1952	...	...	105

The total inspections relate to:

Nuisances	...	...	797	Meat and Food:		
Housing Acts & Regulations	...	...	397	Bakehouses	...	48
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	151	Butchers' Shops	...	95
Rehousing Investigations	...	...	797	Restaurants, Cafes and		
Interviews with Owners and				Hotel Kitchens	...	54
Tradesmen	...	...	22	Food Preparing		
Factories	...	...	123	Premises	...	116
Smoke Observations	...	...	44	Fish and Chip Shops	...	50
Spoilbanks and Refuse Tips	...	...	405	Fish Shops	...	3
Public Sanitary				Slaughter Points	...	12
Conveniences	...	...	13	General Provision shops	...	38
Drainage	...	...	499	Works Canteens	...	20
Pet Animals' Act	...	...	3	School Canteens	...	11
Keeping of Animals	...	...	16	Shops' Act	...	178
Hairdressers	...	...	47	Unsound Food	...	117
Licensed Premises	...	...	24	Milk Shops and Dairies	...	24
Public Cleansing	...	...	5801	Ice Cream Shops	...	89
Conversions	...	...	610	Ice Cream		
Salvage	...	...	133	manufacturers	...	19
Prevention of damage by				Hawkers' Premises	...	21
Pests Act	...	...	8	Water Supplies:		
Places of Entertainment	...	...	2	Samples taken	...	82
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	2	Supplies investigated	...	111
Miscellaneous	...	...	14	Milk Samples taken	...	32
Dirty and Verminous Premises:				Ice cream samples taken	...	47
Bed Bugs	...	...	112	Markets	...	35
Other Vermin	...	...	26	Infectious Diseases:		
Dirty Houses	...	...	73	Disinfections (inc. T.B.)	...	44
				Investigations	...	60
				Food Poisoning	...	2

Notices:

Informal Notices served	...	304	Complied with	...	243
Statutory Notices served	...	53	Complied with	...	2
Legal Proceedings taken	...	—			

WATER SUPPLIES

There are two major public supplies, those of the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board and the Doncaster Corporation, supplying the greater part of the District, one small supply serving Kirk Sandall,

owned by Pilkington Brothers, and two estate supplies to the rural parishes of Hooton Pagnell and Clayton-with-Frickley.

The principal sources of supplies are deep boreholes which give water of constant purity and moderate hardness.

Piped supplies are now available in every parish of the Rural District. There are, however, outlying houses and farms in rural parishes which are not within reasonable distance of a water main.

The number of inhabited houses which are not connected to a public water supply becomes less each year. It is now 170 out of a total of 14,681.

The following samples of water were submitted for bacteriological analysis:

	No. of Examinations.	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory.
Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board	25	4
Doncaster Corporation	16	—
Pilkington Bros. Ltd.	6	—
Private Wells	1	25
Dearne Valley Water Board	1	—
Springs Estate Supplies	4	—
	53	29

NOTE:

The four unsatisfactory results from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board's supply, were all from one place where a new main approximately three quarters of a mile in length had been laid terminating in a dead end. Repeated flushings of this length removed the temporary pollution.

With regard to the twenty-five unsatisfactory results from private wells, nine of these were connected to the water main during 1952 and the remainder are in hand at the time of writing for connections to be made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION: END OF YEAR, 1952

	No. of inhabited houses 31/12/52	Water closets	Pail closets	Privy middens	Dustbins	Dry Ashpits	Cesspools
Parishes Closely Built: Armthorpe, Askern, Barnby Dun with Kirk Sandall, Bawtry, Edlington, Rossing- ton, Sprotborough and Warmsworth.	11,220	11,625	134	28	11,796	8	298
Parishes Closely built in parts: Austerfield, Barnburgh, Blax- ton, Braithwell, Brodsworth, Cadeby, Cantley, Denaby (Old), Marr, Norton, Wad- worth	2,515	1,872	562	181	2,397	12	475
Parishes Entirely Rural: Adwick - on - Dearne, Awkley, Burghwallis, Clayton - with - Frickley, Conisborough Parks, Fenwick, Hampole, Hickleton, Hooton Pagnell, Kirk Bram- with, Loversall, Melton (High), Moss, Owston, Stain- ton, Thorpe-in-Balne.	946	399	412	141	814	12	131
TOTAL ...	14,681	13,896	1,108	350	15,007	33	904

Closet Conversions and Additions for 1952:

- 11 Privies to water closets.
- 13 Privies to pail closets.
- 17 Pails to water closets.
- 5 Additional water closets.
- 388 Water closets provided for new buildings.

PROVISION OF DUSTBINS

The scheme for the supply of dustbins by the Council, under Section 75(3) Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Local Authorities (Charge for Dustbins) Order, 1949, has continued to work satisfactorily.

Three hundred and forty three bins were supplied. An annual charge of five shillings is made on the property and collected as part of the General Rate.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

(a) Spoilbanks

The position is much the same as last year. There are four burning spoilbanks at Askern, Armthorpe, Edlington and Hickleton, all owned by the National Coal Board.

Measures have been continuously applied, to keep nuisances to the minimum by spraying with water, slurry lagooning and blanketting. As previously stated the spoilbanks will continue to burn for a long time.

(b) Industrial Chimneys

Forty-four observations of thirty minutes duration were taken. Twenty one of these showed excessive emission of black smoke, based on the byelaw standard of not more than three minutes discharge of black smoke in thirty minutes.

Late in 1951, the National Coal Board gave the Rural District Council an undertaking arising from the service of a Statutory Notice, to install mechanical stokers to all the boilers at Markham Main Colliery, Armthorpe, by 1953. The whole of the work was completed during 1952, with the result that there has been no emission of black smoke since.

Yorkshire Main Colliery, Edlington, is the "black spot" left to be dealt with. This is in hand, as part of the policy of the National Coal Board to replace all hand-fired boilers by mechanical stokers.

The atmosphere of South Yorkshire will be much purer when this is done.

(c) Askern—Doncaster Coalite Works

In my report of last year I stated that further efforts had been made to effect an improvement and the position would be fully reviewed this year.

On the 30th January, 1952, a deputation from the Rural District Council met officials of the Coalite and Chemical Products Limited, Dr. Parker and Mr. D. MacDougall, representing the Department of Fuel and Industrial Research, and Mr. C. Tiplady, District Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works, Ministry of Health.

The works were inspected followed by a general discussion as to what could be done to improve the conditions, which everyone agreed, were far from satisfactory even for this type of industrial concern.

Dr. Parker and Mr. MacDougall later submitted a report, in which it was recommended, that a grit arrester be installed to prevent the excessive grit emission which was a contributory cause of the dirty conditions in the atmosphere and on the ground for some distance around the works.

Technical difficulties, plus delayed delivery of the fan and motor prevented the apparatus being installed during 1952, the period covered by this report.

The work was completed early in 1953 and at the time of writing appears to have effected some improvement. A further report will be submitted.

(d) **Research**

The scheme for investigating the extent of atmospheric pollution throughout the country, set up by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has continued. A Deposit Gauge and a Lead Peroxide Instrument placed at St. Peter's Church, Askern, gave the following readings throughout the year.

Deposit Gauge and Lead Peroxide Readings, 1952

Deposits and Lead Peroxide Readings, 1962					
	Rainfall	Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Deposit	Sulphur dioxide in exposed lead peroxide
ASKERN:					
Month	Millimetres	Tons per square mile			Milligrammes
January	40	61.52	8.97	70.49	7.94
February	12	53.19	6.10	59.29	1.64
March	44	48.62	6.71	55.33	0.87
April	24	37.75	5.64	42.39	0.84
May	29	7.72	4.47	12.19	0.69
June	42	60.14	5.62	65.76	0.92
July	33	80.72	3.73	84.45	0.81
August	44	29.09	5.35	34.44	0.88
September	53	59.19	6.50	65.65	0.55
October	57	27.26	6.40	33.66	1.44
November	46	24.11	4.74	28.85	1.37
December	33	41.82	7.11	49.03	1.55

Smoke Filter Machine.

By drawing measured quantities of outside air through a 1-inch diameter filter paper and the stain being matched with a scale of shades, the concentration of smoke is estimated and expressed in milligrams per hundred cubic metres as shown in the following table:

Smoke Readings for the year 1952

Centre: KIRK SANDALL.

Station: PUBLIC CLEANSING DEPOT, SUNNYSIDE.

Month		Highest	Lowest	Average
January	... ..	.988	.228	.404
February	... ..	.798	.074	.737
March	... ..	.475	.038	.259
April	... ..	.399	.074	.227
May ...	... ..	.475	.038	.253
June	... ..	.475	.148	.313
July ..	... ..	.475	.074	.277
August	... ..	.228	.114	.177
September	.. .	.798	.038	.339
October	... ..	.608	.038	.268
November	... ..	.608	.038	.207
December	... ..	.798	.076	.328
	Highest in year	... ..	.988	
	Lowest in year	... ..	.038	
	Average	... ..	.285	

Owing to the machine requiring daily attention and electric current being necessary to run a small motor, it is not possible to change the position of this apparatus.

Generally speaking the position with regard to atmospheric pollution is improving.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Byelaws made under Section 120 of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, were approved by the Rural District Council, on the 20th day of September, 1952, and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on the 12th day of November, 1952, and came into operation on the 1st day of January, 1953.

The byelaws are for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of the premises and persons where the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on in the Rural District.

Section 120 of the Act provides that no person shall carry on a business of Hairdresser or Barber on any premises in the Doncaster Rural District, unless he and those premises are registered by the Local Authority.

Thirty two certificates of registration have been granted. The businesses are well conducted.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Two licences have been granted to keep pet shops. The premises comply with the requirements of the Act.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN

Six infestations in private properties were dealt with, four for bugs and two for ants.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for Year Ended 31st December, 1952

	Type of Property				
	Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricult- tural (3)	(incl. business premises) (4)	All other Total (5)
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	68	14,083	600	858	15,609
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a results of (a) notification, (b) survey or otherwise ...	(a) 35 (b) —	141 —	6 236	23 —	205 236
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (See note below)	Major — Minor 26	— 116	7 35	— 21	7 198
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	9	25	—	2	36
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	35	141	5	23	204
VI. Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	9				

NOTE

Item III above.

This includes 10 Refuse Tips and 6 Sewage Disposal Works. Treatment of these is continous in rotation.

Treatment of Sewers

Certain sewerage schemes were inspected at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, when it was agreed that it was not necessary to carry out treatments this year, provided 10 per cent. tests were made on all districts in the Spring of 1953.

Agricultural Lands and Hereditaments

The long outstanding problem mentioned in the reports for 1951 and 1952 was brought nearer to a solution when the Council appointed an additional rodent operative to carry out a survey of farms and agricultural lands.

Lists of infected farm premises have been passed on to the Pest Officer, West Riding County Agricultural Executive Committee, with the result that contracts have been entered into with the farmers for periodical treatments.

The Council employs two full-time rodent operatives. Their work covers the Rural District of Doncaster and the Urban District of Tickhill. The position in both areas is very satisfactory.

SECTION D

H O U S I N G

(1) Council Houses.

The number of houses owned or controlled by the Council at the end of 1952 was 2,148, made up as follows:

Pre-war, 643; Post-war, 1,500; Sewage Works houses, 5.

In addition the Council have control of a camp at Sprotborough where the huts have been adapted to house 32 separate families, and a hostel at Warmsworth where alterations have provided dwellings for 30 families. These adaptations are of a temporary character with a very limited life.

During the year one of the dwellings at Sprotborough was demolished, the occupier being rehoused in a new Council house.

(2) Housing: Postal Survey (end of 1952). Result:

Applications re-affirmed	...	...	...	...	...	2085
Applications received since survey	...	...	...	...	...	69
Total						2154

These 2,154 applicants were further classified at the time of applications:

	Resident in District.	Non-Residents.	Total
From householders	644	25	669
From non-householders	1450	25	1485
			2154

During 1952, three hundred and fifty nine houses were completed:

	Coal Miners	Agric.	Others	Total
Airey	1	—	1	2
Traditional	201	4	132	337
Aged Persons Bungalows	—	—	20	20
	202	4	153	359

In addition, twenty nine private houses were completed under licence.

Rehousing

Seven hundred and ninety seven inspections and investigations were made relating to the rehousing of families into Council Houses. The homes and effects of every selected tenant are examined, to ensure that the property about to be completed does not become infested.

It was necessary to carry out fumigations with hydrogen-cyanide gas in fourteen cases. This number is much higher than last year, even when it is taken into consideration that more than twice the number of families were rehoused.

All Council Houses which become vacant are inspected for cleanliness. Housing defects are recorded and remedied before the house is re-occupied.

Privately Owned Houses

One hundred and twenty eight notices were served in respect of houses requiring defects to be remedied. Considerable difficulty is experienced in getting the notices complied with on account of the cost of repair and the reluctance of building contractors to undertake this class of work.

There are still seventeen houses occupied, upon which Demolition Orders were made prior to 1939.

Ten dwellings have been demolished as unfit for human occupation at Edlington.

Tents, Vans and Sheds, etc. Section 269—Public Health Act, 1936

There are still seventeen houses occupied, upon which Demolition Orders have been made. Although the number has increased from last year, the position is satisfactory insomuch that there are no colonies of this type of dwelling in the area.

Licences are renewed annually after inspection.

SECTION E

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY

Meat Inspection

Arrangements for the supply of home-killed meat are as detailed in previous years; the bulk of supplies emanating from the Doncaster County Borough Abattoir.

Slaughtering was still carried out during the year under the Ministry of Food's Self Suppliers' Scheme at various parishes in the area. Inspectors of the Department inspect all such carcasses on the request of the owner. At the end of the year there were 44 licenced slaughtermen on the register.

Problems were again encountered in the distribution of carcase meat to the butchers' shops. The slight improvement mentioned last year was not maintained, and it is doubtful whether any permanent improvement will be effected until arrangements are made to hang all carcasses during delivery, instead of stacking the meat on the floor and dragging it off at each delivery point.

Meetings were held attended by representatives of the Ministry of Food, the Meat Transport Organisation Ltd., the Wholesale Meat Supply Association Ltd., the Road Hauliers, and officers of neighbouring local authorities, and as a result the Road Hauliers concerned finally agreed to provide new bodies with built-in rails and runners for their delivery vehicles. It is now envisaged that this means of transport, when provided, will ensure a hygienic distribution of meat at all times.

Milk Supply

At the close of the year the following were in force in the area:

Dealers' licences for the sale of

Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	26
Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	...	64
Accredited milk	...	...	...	...	...	1

Supplementary licences for the sale of

Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tuberculin Tested milk	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sterilised milk	...	...	...	...	...	5

The retail sales of raw ungraded milk are still declining, and it is estimated that it now comprises only some 5 per cent. of the milk consumed in the area. This area is not yet a specified area as laid down in the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, but during the year several distributors have anticipated a possible change, and now sell graded milks only.

Sampling measures to detect tuberculous milk have been intensified during the year, and endeavours are made to sample all sources of raw milk at least half yearly.

In all twenty three samples were submitted to the Public Health Service Laboratory for guinea pig innoculation and consequent detection of bovine tuberculosis. All samples proved to be negative.

Ice Cream

47 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Laboratory for examination. The results were classified as follows:

Grade I	...	...	22
Grade II	...	...	9
Grade III	...	...	8
Grade IV	..	...	8

There are 5 ice cream factories in the area; four of them employ the heat-treatment method of manufacture, and the premises comply with the Heat Treatment Regulations.

In all 108 visits were paid to the ice-cream producers and retailers, and generally standards are good.

Food Premises:

Considerable attention was devoted during the year to all premises where food was sold, stored or prepared. At the end of the year there were one hundred and twenty seven premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938; 52 of these relating to the manufacture of preserved foods and 75 in respect of the storage and sale of ice-cream. In almost all cases the ice-cream retailed is pre-wrapped.

With the advent of the Food Bylaws and the greater public interest in the subject of food hygiene there have been correspondingly greater endeavours on the part of food traders generally to bring their premises and methods up to modern standards. This upward trend was again noticeable throughout the year. Constant emphasis was laid on the importance of frequent hand washing at all food premises, and it was felt that considerable progress was made in this direction. On present national experience there is but little doubt that this simple precaution is one of the major defences against all types of food contamination. Its importance cannot be over-estimated—or repeated too many times.

In many cases improved hand washing facilities were provided by owners of shops during the year, and handwashing reminders have been delivered to all premises by this Department.

Generally speaking, food premises in the area were well maintained during the year under review. Some attention is still required to the more constant protection of unwrapped food to the coughs and sneezes of customers; by the end of the year many traders had installed protective screens to surmount this problem.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

None were reported during 1952.

Unfit Food

The following footstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered by the Owners:

Cooked Meat	1601lbs. 10ozs.	Pulses	7 packets
Cooked Meat	676 tins	Pulses	581 tins
Canned Fish	124 tins	Milk	192 tins
Fish Paste	68 tins	Milk Powder	336lbs.
Fish Paste	1lb.	Pudding Mixture	5 packets
Fish Cakes	29	Biscuits	13 packets
Eggs	190	Biscuits	54 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Cheese Spread	109 portions	Butter and Fat	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Canned Fruits	2314 tins	Sauces	132 bottles
Dried Fruits	4lbs. 14ozs.	Coffee	19 bottles
Cereals	15lbs	Soft Drinks	10 bottles
Cereals	37 packets	Pastries and Bread	57
Flour	76lbs.	Synthetic Cream	5 cartons

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The 14,681 houses in the Rural District are served by a comprehensive direct labour scheme. Properties situated in the remotest parts of the area receive regular service.

No additional charge is made for any part of the services rendered—a practice which appears to be adopted in many districts, particularly relating to the emptying of cesspools.

The average weekly collections, including schools and other premises number 16,355 and the vehicles travelled 152,871 miles in the execution of the work.

15,007 dustbins and 1,108 pail closets are emptied weekly and 390 privies and 33 dry ashpits are cleansed monthly. The 904 cesspools receive attention at varying periods of one week to two months, having regard to the number of houses draining into the cesspools, their capacity and position. Each year the number of cesspools increases, owing to the lack of sewers in the rural and some urban parts of the area. The provision of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes, particularly at Barnburgh and Sprotborough should be pressed forward with the utmost vigour.

Street cleansing is undertaken in the more populous parts of the district.

The Council either own or rent eight refuse disposal sites, each serving an area within reasonable access of the places of collection.

Transport

Eighteen vehicles comprise the fleet used for public cleansing. Ten are engaged on refuse collection, one spare lorry, four motor vacuum machines for cesspool emptying, one specially adapted for the cleansing of pail closets, one for emptying privies and ashpits and one for general use and salvage collections.

One of the cesspool emptiers purchased in November, 1952, is fitted with a deisel engine. This is a new venture for the type of work required. Although it has only been working less than two months, it would appear to be satisfactory, the machine being well on top of its work, while showing a considerable saving in running costs.

Salvage

As reported last year, the Council went to the expense of installing an electric baling press and providing a three-phase supply of electricity (cost £510 10s. 6d.) at the Kirk Sandall Cleansing Depot, to deal with the waste paper collected.

The selling price of £13 per ton and the national demand for waste paper warranted the expenditure.

In April, 1952, the price per ton was reduced from £13 to £8 and a month later was again lowered to £7 10s. od. with a restricted monthly delivery of 14 tons. Had the Council not been party to a Contract with the Thames Board Mills for them to supply and the Mills to purchase the waste paper collected, there would have been no way of disposal other than by burning or burying. Many local authorities were left in this position.

Salvage collected and sold during the year:

Waste Paper ...	173 tons	7 cwt. 2 qr.	£1919 15 4
Textiles ...	2 tons	5 cwt. 3 qr.	£47 3 3
Scrap Metal ...	2 tons	18 cwt. 0 qr.	£13 11 2
			<hr/>
			£1980 9 9
			<hr/>

A bonus of £296 2s. od. was shared amongst the workmen in the Public Cleansing Department.

The Public Cleansing Depot, Sunnyside, Kirk Sandall, is a well-appointed building owned by the Council. All the vehicles are garaged there. Two mechanics carry out the work of maintaining the

fleet in good order, all repairs—with the exception of reboring of engines, cylinders and certain electrical work—being done on the premises. Each vehicle is periodically painted.

The Depot is also used as the Council's Stores.

Wages and Conditions of Service as laid down by the Provincial Joint Council are complied with in every respect.

Protective clothing, including gloves, is supplied to the workmen by the Council.

The working week is forty-four hours. During the months of March to October inclusive, the five-day week is operated, the remaining four months being worked as a five-and-a-half-day week on account of the shorter hours of daylight.

Throughout the year the Works Committee, consisting of three members of the Rural District Council and three representatives of the workmen, has continued to meet in an atmosphere of perfect harmony.

Details of work performed:

Population served	...	...	...	..	...	53,250
Total collections	...	...	...	...	...	866,810
Average weekly collections	...	...	...	...	...	16,355
Miles travelled by vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	152,871
Gallons of sewage removed	...	...	...	...	...	7,850,215
Gallons of fuel consumed	...	...	...	...	...	18,685

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. REYNOLDS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY OFFICERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent, Officer in Charge of Council House Lettings:

A. Reynolds, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods.

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. K. Smith, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

G. Stevenson, C.S.I.B., National Certificate in Building.

J. Wood, C.R.S.I., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods
(Resigned April, 1952).

R. Durant, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificate for Inspectors of Meat
and Other Foods. Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings, Public Works. National Certificate in
Building.
(Appointed 1st September, 1952).

Public Cleansing Foreman and Disinfecting Officer:

G. Buckley.

Clerks:

E. Hemingway.

J. Hickling.

NOTES

